

Abstract of the Disclosure

A cartridge for a hand operated food processor including a blade holder holding at least one blade. A quick release lock is provided for retaining the cartridge in a casing. The cartridge preferably includes at least one series of aligned blades held by the blade holder utilizable for piercing and cutting food. The invention further includes a food processor having a housing including the above cartridge and a casing holding the cartridge. The invention also includes a food processor having a housing that has at least one blade and preferably at least one longitudinal series of blades for piercing and cutting food where each of the blades has side surface portions and a cutting tip edge portion. A base is provided with openings through which the blades can pass to pierce and cut food. The base includes a fixed base portion and a removable base portion. The removable base portion is provided with a sufficient number of longitudinal slots, open at one end of the slots, so that the slots in the removable base portion can be placed over the side surface portions of the blades without encountering the cutting tip edge portions of the blades. The removable base portion can be easily secured to the fixed base portion and easily removed from the fixed base portion utilizing a quick release latch mechanism. The fixed base portion is secured to the housing by a retracting mechanism that permits retraction of the base relative to the housing so that upon retraction the blades extend through the slots to process food in contact with the bottom of the base.